

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-13. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A process for producing carbamazepine, which comprises reacting iminostilbene with an alkali cyanate in an aqueous acetic acid solution or an alcoholic acetic acid solution, ~~said reacting being carried out in an acidic medium consisting of acetic acid, or a mixture of acetic acid with water, or with alcohol, or with an aqueous alcohol,~~ and recovering the resulting carbamazepine.

10. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 9 wherein the aqueous acetic acid solution of the ~~alkali cyanate~~ contains up to about 20% water.

11. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 9 wherein iminostilbene reacts with the alkali cyanate in the absence of a strong acid, ~~wherein the mixture of acetic acid with water contains up to about 20% water.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 9 wherein ~~the mixture of~~ the alcoholic acetic acid solution ~~with alcohol~~ contains up to about 10% alcohol.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A process for producing carbamazepine, which comprises reacting iminostilbene with an alkali cyanate in an aqueous solution, then adding said aqueous solution to an acidic medium consisting of acetic acid, or a mixture of acetic acid with water, or with alcohol, or with an aqueous alcohol, and recovering the resulting carbamazepine.~~ The process of claim 9 wherein iminostilbene reacts with the alkali cyanate under a condition which is not strongly aprotic.

14. (New) A process for producing carbamazepine, comprising the steps of:
reacting iminostilbene with an alkali cyanate in an aqueous acetic acid mixture, wherein

said aqueous acetic acid mixture comprises acetic acid and up to about 20% by weight of water;
and

recovering the resulting carbamazepine.

15. (New) The process of claim 14, wherein said aqueous acetic acid mixture contains from about 5% to about 20% by weight of water.

16. (New) The process of claim 14, wherein said aqueous acetic acid mixture contains from about 5% to about 10% by weight of water.

17. (New) The process of claim 14, wherein said alkali cyanate is sodium cyanate or potassium cyanate

18. (New) The process of claim 14, wherein said reacting step is carried out within a temperature range of from about 20°C to about 100°C.

19. (New) The process of claim 14, wherein in said reacting step, said alkali cyanate is gradually added to a suspension of iminostilbene in said aqueous acetic acid mixture.

20. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein said alkali cyanate is added as a solid material.

21. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein said alkali cyanate is added in the form of an aqueous solution.

22. (New) A process for producing carbamazepine, comprising the steps of:
reacting iminostilbene with an alkali cyanate in an alcoholic acetic acid mixture; and
recovering the resulting carbamazepine.

23. (New) The process of claim 22, wherein said alcoholic acetic acid mixture contains up to about 10% by weight of alcohol.

24. (New) The process of claim 23, wherein said alcohol is methanol or ethanol.
25. (New) The process of claim 22, wherein said alkali cyanate is sodium cyanate or potassium cyanate.
26. (New) The process of claim 22, wherein said reacting step is carried out within a temperature range of from about 20°C to about 100°C.
27. (New) The process of claim 22, wherein in said reacting step, said alkali cyanate is gradually added to a suspension of iminostilbene in said alcoholic acetic acid mixture.
28. (New) The process of claim 27, wherein said alkali cyanate is added as a solid material.
29. (New) The process of claim 27, wherein said alkali cyanate is added in the form of an aqueous solution.